

Atty. Dkt. No. 200205320-1

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2006.

I. **Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph**

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-5 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, this paragraph made reference to use of the language "a printmode comprising a printmask". Applicants are amending claims 1-5 to cancel instances of the term "printmode" in these claims and submit that this amendment overcomes this rejection of claims 1-5. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

II. **Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 101**

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-5 on the basis that "the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter." In particular, the Office Action states "a printmode is a form of software or instructions capable of being executed by a computer - the printmode itself is not a process unless claimed in process form -- and is therefore nonstatutory subject matter." Applicants are amending claims 1-5 to cancel instances of the term "printmode" in these claims and submit that this amendment overcomes this rejection of claims 1-5. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

III. **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 6-12, 14, and 15 are allowed. Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicants believe that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

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IV. Conclusion.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

5 April 2006

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